

Evans Police Department
Statement on Immigration Law Enforcement

The City of Evans has recently received inquiries regarding how its police department works with federal immigration authorities, and how we interpret federal immigration laws.

It is the opinion of the Evans Police Department (EPD) that Immigration Law Enforcement is a federal responsibility, and that it is not the department's role to directly assist with federal enforcement efforts. Direct involvement would be outside of EPD's mission and official responsibilities, and could have a chilling effect on the willingness of individuals to report crime or assist with the investigation of crime.

This approach should not be interpreted to mean that we provide sanctuary to those who are violating immigration law; Evans is not a "sanctuary city." The Police Department works cooperatively with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which includes cooperating with the Weld County Jail to share information on the national origin of all arrestees who are jailed. We provide logistical support, whenever asked, to all federal partners who may be conducting operations within our communities. Additionally, EPD strongly supports the efforts of ICE to arrest, detain, and deport undocumented individuals who have committed felony and/or violent crimes.

EPD officers do not, however, check the immigration status of individuals with whom they routinely come in contact, nor does ICE expect EPD to do so. To conduct such checks or 'sweeps' would negatively impact the willingness of individuals to cooperate with EPD officers. Moreover, there is no constitutional requirement for citizens to provide proof of immigration status when contacted by police officers, and therefore the department does not make such inquiries or report such information inadvertently obtained to ICE.

The Evans Police Department values its relationships with all members of its diverse community and affirms its commitment to treat all people with respect and dignity regardless of immigration status.